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Governor

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MICHAEL E. LEWIS
Commissioner

September 15, 2000

PROVIDER NOTICE: 00-12

TO: All Providers

RE: Beginning of Family Planning Waiver in Alabama

Effective October 1, 2000, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will initiate a new program to extend family planning and birth control services to an expanded eligibility group in Alabama who, if pregnant, would qualify for prenatal care through Medicaid's SOBRA program. The program, called **Plan First**, will operate under an 1115 Research and Demonstration waiver granted by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). The waiver has been approved for five years and may be renewed with HCFA's approval.

Under Plan First, eligible women will qualify for most family planning services and supplies, including birth control pills, the Depo-Provera shot, doctor/clinic visits (for family planning only) and tubal ligations. Please refer to Appendix M of the Medicaid Provider Manual for specifics regarding this program. **Plan First does not cover any other medical services and women who have been previously sterilized are not eligible for participation in this program.**

In order to provide family planning services to a Plan First eligible, a provider must be enrolled as a Plan First provider. Providers only performing tubal ligations (i.e., physicians, hospitals, anesthesiologists) are not required to enroll. Plan First eligibles are able to receive oral contraceptives (OCPs) from their provider of services. The OCPs will be made available to all enrolled Plan First providers by the State Department of Public Health at no cost to the provider. **Prescriptions for OCPs for Plan First eligibles will not be honored.**

Eligible program participants include women who are U. S. citizens age 19-44, and who have a child or children in the Medicaid SOBRA program, or who qualify based on income limits of 133% of the federal poverty level (the same as for SOBRA).

Women who are U.S. citizens and have a child or children in the SOBRA program will automatically be enrolled effective for October 1. Women already on file through the SOBRA program will be automatically added when their SOBRA benefits end. Women who do not currently have children on SOBRA Medicaid but whose income is within the SOBRA limits may apply for coverage under this program through an outstationed Medicaid worker.

Program participants will be required to present their Medicaid card prior to receiving services or supplies. Recipients who have been on Medicaid in the last two years may continue to use their current card, although their coverage will change to family planning services only (Aid category

Our Mission - to provide an efficient and effective system of financing health care for our beneficiaries.

50). Women new to the Medicaid program will receive a plastic Medicaid card by mail. As always, providers are responsible for verifying eligibility and coverage via PES or AVRS systems.

If you have further questions regarding this program or if you wish to enroll, please call Leigh Ann Payne at (334) 353-5263. Recipients may call the Plan First hotline at 1-888-737-2083 for more information.

Michael E. Lewis
Commissioner

AVRS – 1-800-727-7848 Medicaid Fraud Hotline – 1-800-727-7848
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